program code for a search step of searching for network devices connected to a network; and

program code for a display step of displaying a list of the network devices, wherein said fist display step is executed when one of the listed network devices is selected by a user.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 10, 2001. Claims 1-7, 10, 11, 21, 24, 25, 28, 31, 48, 51, 54, and 57-89 are presented for examination, with Claims 1-3 and 57-59 having been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 9, 17-21, 27, 30, 33, 50, 53, and 56 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. New Claims 60-89, which were inadvertently omitted from the Amendment filed on July 18, 2001, have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1-6 and 57-59 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-7, 9-11, 17-22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 48, 50, 51, 53, 54, and 56-59 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,778,377 (Marlin et al.). Cancellation of Claims 9, 17-21, 27, 30, 33, 50, 53, and 56 renders their rejections moot. Applicants submit that independent Claims 1-6 and 57-59, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a displaying method for managing a plurality of network devices. The method includes first and second display steps. The first display step acquires a first information related to the selected network device and displays the first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to the selected network device. The second display acquires, in response to a user request for display of a second screen of the device window, a second information, different from the first information, from the selected network device and displays the second information on the second screen.

One important feature of Claim 1 is that, in response to a user request for display of the second screen of the device window after the first information related to the selected network device is displayed on the initial screen of the device window, the second information related to the selected network device is acquired from the selected network device and displayed on the second screen of the device window. Thus, according to Claim 1, the information related to the selected network device is not acquired all at once. This enables the initial screen to be displayed quickly, because the amount of information to be displayed on the initial screen is small. If the second screen is requested by the user, then the second information is acquired and displayed. By virtue of this feature, the displaying of information for managing a plurality of network devices is performed more efficiently.

Marlin et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to a graphical user interface (GUI) system for enabling a user to manage information in an object-oriented database through use of a displayed table. The system is intended for use in a large mailroom operation. (See

column 1, lines 1-2.) Apparently, Marlin et al. teaches that the displayed table is updated in response to user's request. When a user designates a control button on a tool bar, an update is performed by causing a logout, if a polling timer message has not been received, or, if the message has been received, by causing row polling and column polling.

Nothing has been found in Marlin et al. that is believed to teach or suggest a display method for managing a plurality of network devices, the display method including the steps of "acquiring a first information *related to the selected network device* and displaying the first information on an initial screen of a device window, *which is a window allocated to the selected network device*; and a second display step of acquiring, in response to a user request for display of a second screen of the device window, a second information, different from the first information, *from the selected network device* and displaying the second information on the second screen," as recited in Claim 1. (Emphasis added.)

Marlin et al. is understood to teach that the displayed table is updated after a communication between the GUI and a window manager of an apparatus, and is not believed to disclose or suggest communication between a network managing apparatus and a selected network device or acquiring information from a selected network device, as claimed in Claim 1. In fact, the Marlin et al. system is understood to relate to managing access to a central database from a plurality of nodes, and is not believed to relate to or even suggest managing a plurality of network devices. Further, Marlin et al. specifically states that the "current invention provides a graphical user interface (GUI) through which a user may define reports and receive on a display requested information *from the object-oriented database*." (Emphasis added. See column 14,

lines 15-18.) That is, information is retrieved from a central database and is not acquired from a selected network device, as claimed in Claim 1. Thus, instead of acquiring information from a selected network device as needed, upon request by a user, the Marlin et al. system only provides what is stored in a database, which may not be the most current information. The column and row items in Marlin et al.'s table are all polled at the same time, apparently based on a predetermined polling interval, and not when requested by a user.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Marlin et al., and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Independent Claims 2 and 3 are apparatus and recording medium claims corresponding to Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Additionally, independent Claims 57-59 include a feature similar to that of Claim 1 discussed above, in which, in response to a user request for display of second information after first information related to a selected network device is displayed on an initial screen of a device window, the second information related to the selected network device is acquired and displayed on a second screen of the device window. Accordingly, Claims 57-59 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 4 is directed to a network device control method that includes the steps of acquiring and displaying initial sheet information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to individual network peripheral devices on a one-to-one basis; making a list of separate sheet information not consisting of the initial sheet information acquired and displayed on the initial screen; deciding a

sheet information list to acquire from separate sheet information lists that have been made; acquiring and displaying, when it is determined that an entry has been made by a user requesting display of a different type of sheet information, different types of newly requested sheet information on the device window; deciding whether all sheet information has been acquired; deciding, when it is found that not all information has been acquired, whether all current acquisition of sheet information has ended based on a result of the step of deciding a sheet information list to acquire; changing a sheet information list status of previously acquired information when it is decided that all current acquisition of sheet information has ended; and acquiring network device information when it is decided that not all current acquisition of sheet information has ended.

Like Claim 1, one important feature of Claim 4 is that, in response to a user request for display of a different type of sheet information relating to a network peripheral device corresponding to an initial screen of a device window, acquiring and displaying that sheet information on the device window. Thus, as in Claim 1, all the sheet information related to the network peripheral device is not acquired at once. This enables the initial screen to be displayed quickly, because the amount of information to be displayed on the initial screen is small. When different sheet information is requested by the user, then that information is acquired and displayed. By virtue of this feature, the displaying of information for managing a plurality of network peripheral devices is performed more efficiently.

Nothing has been found in Marlin et al. that is believed to teach or suggest a network device control method comprising: "an initial sheet information acquisition and display

step of acquiring and displaying initial sheet information on an initial screen of a device window, which is *a window allocated to individual network peripheral devices on a one-to-one basis*" and "a different sheet information acquisition and display step of, when it is determined that an entry has been made by a user requesting display of a different type of sheet information, acquiring and displaying different types of newly requested sheet information on a device window opened in said initial sheet information acquisition and display step," as recited in Claim 4. (Emphasis added.) The discussion above in connection with Claim 1 is also applicable here.

Further, nothing has been found in Marlin et al. that is believed to teach or suggest "an all sheet information acquisition decision step of deciding whether all sheet information has been acquired; a single sheet information acquisition decision step of deciding, when it is found in said all sheet information acquisition decision step that not all information has been acquired, whether all current acquisition of sheet information has ended based on a result of said acquisition sheet information decision step; a sheet information list status change step of changing a sheet information list status of previously acquired information when it is decided in said single sheet information acquisition decision step that all current acquisition of sheet information has ended; and a network device information acquisition step of acquiring network device information when it is decided in said single sheet information acquisition step that not all current acquisition of sheet information has ended," as recited in Claim 4. The portions of Marlin et al. identified in the Office Action do not disclose or suggest the steps of Claim 4 cited above. The Federal Circuit has interpreted 35 U.S.C.§ 102 as requiring that the "identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim."

Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 4 is not anticipated by Marlin et al., and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Independent Claims 5 and 6 are apparatus and recording medium claims corresponding to Claim 4, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 4.

The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Thrice Amended) A displaying method of managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information related to a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and displaying acquired information of the selected network device, said method comprising:

a first display step of acquiring a first information related to the selected network device and displaying the first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to the selected network device; and

a second display step of acquiring, [from the selected network device] in response to a user request for display of a second screen of the device window, a second information, different from the first information, from the selected network device and displaying the second information on [a] the second screen [of the device window in a case where a user has requested display of the second screen].

2. (Thrice Amended) A network device control apparatus for managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information related to a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and displaying [acquiring] acquired information of the selected network device, comprising:

a first display unit for acquiring a first information related to the selected network device and displaying the first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a

window allocated to the selected network device; and

a second display unit for acquiring, [from the selected network device] in response to a user request for display of a second screen of the device window, a second information that is different from the first information and that is related to the selected network device from the selected network device, and displaying the second information on [a] the second screen [of the device window in a case where a user has requested display of the second screen].

3. (Thrice Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for implementing a managing method of managing a plurality of network devices, an acquiring method of acquiring information related to a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and a displaying method of displaying acquired information, the program comprising:

program code for a first display step of acquiring a first information related to the selected network device and displaying the first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to the selected network device; and

program code for a second display step of acquiring, [from the selected network device] in response to a user request for display of a second screen of the device window, a second information that is different from the first information and that is related to the selected network device from the selected network device, and displaying the second information on [a] the second screen [of the device window in a case where a user has requested display of the second screen].

57. (Twice Amended) A method of managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information of a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and displaying the acquired information, said method comprising:

a first display step of acquiring a first information of a selected network device and of displaying the first information on a device window; and

a second display step of acquiring [a], in response to a user request for display of a second information of the selected network device, the second information [of the selected network device] from the selected network device and of displaying the second information on the device window [when a user has requested display of the second information],

wherein the second information is different from the first information.

58. (Amended) A network device control apparatus for managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information of a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and displaying the acquired information, said apparatus comprising:

a first display unit for acquiring a first information of a selected network device and displaying the first information on a device window; and

a second display unit for acquiring [a], in response to a user request for display of a second information of the selected network device, the second information [of the selected network device] from the selected network device and displaying the second information on the device window [when a user has requested display of the second information].

59. (Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information from a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and displaying the acquired information, the program comprising:

program code for a first display step of acquiring a first information of a selected network device and of displaying the first information on a device window; and

program code of a second display step of acquiring [a], in response to a user request for display of a second information of the device window, the second information [of the selected network device] from the selected network device and of displaying the second information on the device window [when a user has requested display of the second information].